

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Docket: KATA-170

Applicant : Syuichi IKENOUE et al.
Serial No. : (Not yet assigned)
Filed : September 19, 2001
Title : MULTI-LAYER COATING FILM-FORMING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please substitute for Claim 7 the following rewritten version of Claim 7, as amended. The changes made are shown explicitly in the attached "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the cationic electrodeposition coating composition (A) is a lead-free cationic electrodeposition coating composition further containing a bismuth-containing compound.

Please add new Claims 10 to 12 as follows:

10. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the cationic electrodeposition coating composition (A) is a lead-free cationic electrodeposition coating composition further containing a bismuth-containing compound.

11. The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the bismuth-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of bismuth hydroxide, bismuth trioxide, bismuth nitrate, bismuth benzoate, bismuth citrate, bismuth oxycarbonate and bismuth silicate.

12. The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the bismuth-containing compound is in the form of a water-dispersed paste prepared by mixing and dispersing in the presence of a dispersing agent into an aqueous medium a water-insoluble bismuth compound and an aliphatic carboxylic acid represented by the formula: $R_1C(H)(OR_2)(CH_2)_nCOOH$, wherein R_1 is hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, R_2 is hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and n is 0 or 1, and containing therein an aliphatic carboxylic acid-modified bismuth compound in a water-insoluble state.

In the Specification:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please insert the priority history on page 1 between the title and the first line. The changes made are shown explicitly in the attached "Version with Marking to Show Changes Made."

Please insert the following priority history on page 1 between the title and the first line:

This application has benefit of the priority of Japanese Patent Application No.

00/285312, filed on September 20, 2000, and Japanese Patent Application No.

00/285313, filed on September 20, 2000.

REMARKS

Please enter this preliminary amendment before calculating the filing fee. The preliminary amendment was filed to eliminate multiple dependency in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Sept. 19, 2001



Virgil H. Marsh
Reg. No. 23,083

Fisher, Christen & Sabol
1725 K Street, N.W.
suite 1401
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: 202/659-2000
Facsimile: 202/659-2015

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim [1 or] 5, wherein the cationic electrodeposition coating composition (A) is a lead-free cationic electrodeposition coating composition further containing a bismuth-containing compound.

New Claims 10 to 12 have been added.

In the Specification:

The following priority history has been inserted on page 1 between the title and the first line:

This application has benefit of the priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 00/285312, filed on September 20, 2000, and Japanese Patent Application No. 00/285313, filed on September 20, 2000.